

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN

MORTON AMSTER
 JESSE ROTHSTEIN (RETIRED)
 DANIEL S. EBENSTEIN
 PHILIP H. GOTTFRIED
 MICHAEL J. BERGER
 NEIL M. ZIPKIN
 ANTHONY F. LO CICERO
 KENNETH P. GEORGE
 ABRAHAM KASDAN, Ph.D.
 IRA E. SILFIN
 CHESTER ROTHSTEIN
 CRAIG J. ARNOLD

SENIOR COUNSEL
 CHARLES R. MACEDO
 MARK J. ROSENBERG
 KENNETH M. BERNSTEIN

OF COUNSEL
 JERRY DAINOW

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PATENTS • TRADEMARKS • COPYRIGHTS

90 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

TELEPHONE: (212) 697-3995

FACSIMILE: (212) 286-0854

NEAL L. ROSENBERG	MAX VERN
DENISE A. LINDENAUER	DANA R. METES
NANCY M. DODDERIDGE	KARL J. KOLBINGER
PATRICK BOLAND*	BRIAN A. COMACK
TREBOR LLOYD	RICHARD S. MANDARO
JOSEPH M. CASINO	NATALIE BOGDANOS
JOHN S. ECONOMOU	MARC J. JASON
MICHAEL V. SOLOMITA	ELIE H. GENDLOFF, Ph.D.*
HOLLY PEKOWSKY	DAVID MITNICK
MICHAEL P. KENNEY	CHARLES RATH
MARION P. METELSKI*	BERNARD MAISTER, M.D.*

* NOT ADMITTED IN NEW YORK

July 2, 2002

via Facsimile

UNOFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE
TO EXAMINER GUARRIELLO
 Group Art Unit 1771

John J. Guarriello, Esq.

Examiner

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Patent Application
 Title: COMPOSITE TEXTILE MATERIAL FOR
 PROTECTING
 THE HUMAN BODY AGAINST HEAT
 Serial No: 09/367,019
 Our File: 10350/168

Dear Examiner Guarriello:

Pursuant to our telephone discussion Friday, June 28, 2002, I enclose the following comments which attempt to briefly summarize main points of the Amendment we filed on June 26, 2002 by Express Mail, with a courtesy copy faxed to you.

1. Lack of Unity Issue: This was applied to prior claims 18-30 because of inclusion of means for air circulation. The amendment argues that unity is not lacking for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the amendment which discusses how "circulation means" was in the original specification and

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in the original claims and was a significant aspect of the principal prior reference cited in the outstanding office action. Notwithstanding the above, the circulation means element has been deleted in current claims 18-30, and accordingly the lack of unity issue is believed to be moot. If said lack of unity of invention objection is withdrawn, new claim 31 is believed to be proper, as it includes air circulation means.

2. Regarding the "102" and "103" rejections: The new composite textile material of this invention comprises inner and outer layers which define generally parallel planes that are spaced apart by link threads. These link threads extend generally lengthwise or axially and extend transversely of the planes of the inner and outer layers.

3. The prior art. references, as Klein, have strands between inner and outer layers; however, these prior art strands themselves define a plane that is parallel to the planes of the inner and outer layers, as opposed to applicant's strands that are transverse to these planes.

4. The embodiments shown in Figs. 2 and 4 of the new invention, and as defined in claims 12 and 24, have a discontinuous layer 7 between and spaced from both the inner and outer layers. This layer 7 is discontinuous because of openings 8 as seen in these two figures. Spacing between layers 1 and 7 is established and maintained by the transversely extending link threads. This produces a three-dimensional textile. The cited prior art has no such separate or discontinuous layer.

5. These structural distinctions of this invention are seen Figs. 1-4 of the drawings and described in the specification as indicated below and elsewhere:

Re claims 12 and 24:

page 7, lines 10-17 describe layer 6 is "disassociated" or spaced from layer 7 and from layer 1. Layer 7 is between and spaced from both layers 1 and 6.

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page 7, lines 20-23 describe openings 8 which establish layer 7 as "discontinuous".

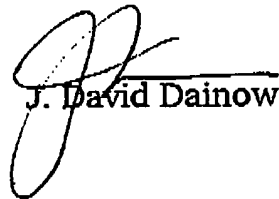
Re claims 9, 18, 12 and 24:

page 3, lines 11-12 describe two fabrics united by link threads, and lines 10-29 describe two fabrics separated by link threads.

I hope to discuss other aspects of the invention and the claims will be discussed with you in our telephone interview.

Very truly yours,

AMSTER, ROTHSTEIN & EBENSTEIN


J. David Dainow

JDD:de

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